

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 185855

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 185855 ACTION ALL NATO CAPITALS BERN
DUBLIN EC BRUSSELS GENEVA HELSINKI MADRID MOSCOW NICOSIA NATO
STOCKHOLM USUN VIENNA AUGUST 23RD

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 185855

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS OF PRESS BRIEFING BY
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT ANDERSON ON CYPRUS SITUATION
AUGUST 23:

QUOTE: Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE A REACTION TO THE
SOVIET PROPOSAL ON CYPRUS?

A: NOT OVER AND ABOVE WHAT THE SECRETARY COMMENTED
YESTERDAY. HE SAID HE HASN'T SEEN IT YET. AND THAT STILL
STANDS.

Q: HE HASN'T SEEN IT YET?

A: NO. WE HAVE SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS, AND WHEN WE
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RECEIVE IT, IT WILL BE STUDIED.

Q: AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NO INCLINATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME?

A: NOT AT THIS TIME, NO.

Q: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY VIEW ON THE USE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THIS DISPUTE?

A: ON THIS, LET ME MAKE THREE POINTS, IF I MAY:

THAT ON THE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, TO GET THEM RESUMED IN CYPRUS, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; WE ARE WILLING TO BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY WE CAN HERE; AND WE WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO ANY EFFORTS THAT ARE MADE TOWARD THIS END.

Q: INCLUDING TOO, THE SOVIET PROPOSAL?

A: ON THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, WE WOULD WANT TO STUDY IT.

Q: IS THIS THE ANSWER RESPONSIVE TO THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF THE UNITED NATIONS?

A: YES, AND IT'S MORE GENERAL THAN THAT. BUT IT INCLUDES THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q: EVIDENTLY YOU ARE SAYING THAT YOU WOULD FIND THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE USEFUL. IS THAT THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'RE --

A: NO, I AM NOT ADDRESSING MYSELF TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN YET.

Q: I TAKE IT YOUR ANSWER IS IN RESPONSE TO LARS' QUESTION.

A: THERE WAS A REPORT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM IS GOING DOWN TO CYPRUS; AND ON THAT, WE THINK THAT IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. THERE IS A MAJOR UNCLASSIFIED

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U.N. EFFORT GOING ON IN CYPRUS.

WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT HE, AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, HAS ANY NEGOTIATING PLANS, IF I MAY PUT IT THAT WAY, BUT IF HE DID HAVE SOME PLANS WHICH WE ARE UNAWARE OF AND IF IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, WE WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO IT.

Q: WHAT I'M CONFUSED ABOUT IS, YOU SAID IN YOUR PREPARED STATEMENT THAT WE WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO ANY EFFORTS.

AREN'T THE SOVIETS MAKING AN EFFORT --

A: I WILL NOT CHARACTERIZE THE SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT WE HAVE NOT SEEN YET, AN EFFORT TOWARD NEGOTIATING.

Q: WELL REGARDLESS -- JUST FOR THE RECORD -- REGARDLESS

OF WHETMOU DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. BUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE SEEN IT. IT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET PRESS AND IT'S BEEN IN THE FBIS BOOKS THAT WE HAVE.

A: WE WANT TO HAVE THE FULL REPORT, READ THAT, AND HAVE A CHANCE TO STUDY IT -- AND PRESUMABLY, AT THE TIME THAT WE RECEIVE IT, THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT BY WHOMEVER BRINGS THE REPORT TO US -- WHETHER IT BE IN NEW YORK OR HERE -- AND WE DO NOT WANT TO COSMMMENT UNTIL WE HAVE DONE THAT.

Q: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE BASIS OUGHT TO BE THE GUARANTOR SYSTEM, AS SET UP AT GENEVA, FOR ANY KIND OF NEGOTIATION ON CYPRUS?

A: LET ME SAY THAT AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE; THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN AN INITIATIVE HERE TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED, AND WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THAT INITIATIVE.

Q: OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, YOU HAVE TOLD US THE SECRETARY HAS TALKED WITH A GREAT NUMBER OF PERSONS, AND VARIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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IDEAS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED.

IN THE COURSE OF ALL THESE CONVERSATIONS, HAS THE IDEA OF USING THE UNITED NATIONS COME UP, OR BEEN CONSIDERED?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN, THROUGHOUT THE CYPRUS CRISIS, DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK WITH REGARD TO UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES ON THE REHABILITATION FRONT, WITH REGARD TO THE CEASEFIRE -- WITH REGARD TO THE SOVIET UNION THROUGHOUT THE CRISIS -- ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL AND STUDIED IT, FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PUBLIC PRESS, THE SOVIETS HAVE MENTIONED SOME OF THEIR IDEAS BEFORE, AT DIFFERENT TIMES. LET ME PUT IT THAT WAY.

Q: IT SEEMS AS THOUGH AT NO TIME THAT YOU HAVE REALLY ACCEPTED ANY SOVIET IDEA FOR BROADENING THE FRAMEWORK TO GO BEYOND THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK INTO SOMETHING WHERE THE U.N. BECOMES A BASIS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS.

A: THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: IS THERE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THAT ATTITUDE IS NOW GOING TO CHANGE?

A: I WOULD RATHER NOT COMMENT ON IT AT THIS STAGE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON AN INTERVIEW IN THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY, WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT, IN WHICH HE CONSIDERS THAT TURKEY WOULD BE PREPARED -- WOULD BE WILLING TO PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN THE NATO PLANNING?

A: I CAN HAVE ONE COMMENT FOR YOU ON THAT, A VERY BRIEF ONE, THAT WE CONSIDER GREECE AN IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE, AND WE ARE NOT THINKING ABOUT ANY ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF PROTECTING THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO.

Q: BACK TO GREECE, GREEK GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE BEEN QUOTED CONSISTENTLY AS SAYING RECENTLY THAT GREECE WOULD NOT RESUME NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE TURKS PULLED UNCLASSIFIED

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BACK TO THE LINES THAT PRECEDED THE RECENT FIGHTING. DOES THE UNITED STATES BELIEVE THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE HELD WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS?

A: I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THAT, BUT LET ME SAY THAT WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THE SOONER NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN THE BETTER BECAUSE IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS THE LONGER ONE WAITS OBVIOUSLY THE MORE LIKELY IT IS FOR THE PARTIES TO A NEGOTIATION TO SORT OF HARDEN THEIR OWN POSITIONS. I THINK JUST LEAVE IT THERE.

HERE AGAIN, WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLAN OF OUR OWN, AND WE WILL AWAIT THE RESULTS OF MR. CLERIDES' CONSULTATIONS IN ATHENS, AND THEN, HOPEFULLY, I BELIEVE IT'S TOMORROW, MR. CLERIDES AND MR. DENKTASH WILL MEET. AND I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT WE OBVIOUSLY WELCOME SUCH A MEETING. AND WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE HOW THEY CAN BEGIN TO TALK TOGETHER. UNQUOTE KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGE

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